

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-20: Cancelled

21. (Currently Amended) A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:

- a) water;
- b) a water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol containing at least two oxyalkylene moieties per molecule and an aromatic ring moiety in each molecule which does not bear any alkyl substituent having more than 4 atoms; and
- c) a water-soluble base comprised of:
 - 1) an alkanolamine and
 - 2) an alkali metal silicate in an amount of about 0.001 to about 0.1 weight percent of the composition.

22. Cancelled.

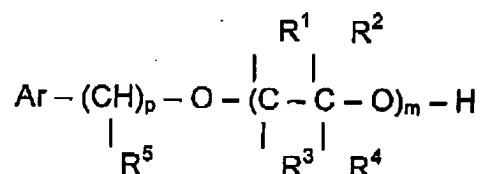
23. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 21 wherein the base is an alkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of monoisopropanolamine, dimethylethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, triisopropanolamine, monoethanolamine, n-butyl diethanolamine, 2-methylaminoethanol, n-butylaminoethanol, diethylaminoethanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, phenyl diethanolamine, and diisopropanolamine.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 21 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 21 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol contains from 2 to 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule.

26. (Original) The composition of 21 wherein said composition comprises from about 0.5 to about 30 weight percent of said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 21 wherein said water-soluble alkoxyated aromatic alcohol is a mixture of compounds corresponding to the general structure



wherein m represents a positive integer which is from about 3 to about 10 on average, each of R¹ -R⁴, independently for each and independently from one to another of the m instances of each R¹ -R⁴ in the same molecule, represents either a covalently bonded hydrogen atom or a covalently bonded methyl moiety, subject to the proviso that at least about 80 number % of the moieties indicated by the symbols R¹ -R⁴ in said mixture represent hydrogen atoms, Ar is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl moiety, subject to the proviso that Ar contains no alkyl substituent containing more than 2 carbon atoms, R⁵ is selected from hydrogen or methyl, and p is 0 or 1.

28. (Currently Amended) A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
- a) water;
 - b) water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated phenols, ethoxylated benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an aromatic ring moiety and an average of from about 3 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule, but does not contain any alkyl substituent on said aromatic ring moiety having more than 2 carbons; and
 - c) water-soluble alkanolamine in an amount sufficient to provide a pH of 8-14.
29. (Original) The composition of claim 28 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of alkali metal silicate.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 28 wherein said composition is comprised of from about 10 to about 20 weight percent water-soluble alkanolamine.
31. (Original) The composition of claim 28 wherein water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and water-soluble alkanolamine are present in said composition at a ratio by weight of from about 2:1 to about 30:1.
32. (Original) A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
- a) water;
 - b) from about 1.0 to about 20 weight percent of water-soluble alkoxylated aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated unsubstituted phenols, ethoxylated unsubstituted benzyl alcohols, and mixtures thereof, wherein said ethoxylated aromatic alcohol contains an average of from about 3 to about 10 oxyethylene moieties per molecule;
 - c) from about 0.1 to about 2 weight percent of water-soluble alkanolamine;
- wherein (b) and (c) are present in said composition in a weight ratio of from about 4:1 to about 20:1.
33. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, solvents, chelating agents, and corrosion inhibitors.
34. (Original) The composition of claim 32 wherein said composition is additionally comprised of from about 0.001 to about 0.1 weight percent alkali metal silicate.
35. (New) The composition of claim 21 wherein the composition has a pH of 9.5-11.5.
36. (New) The composition of claim 27 wherein p is 1.
37. (New) A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
- a) water;
 - b) a water-soluble alkoxylated aromatic alcohol containing an average of from about 3 to about 10 oxyalkylene moieties per molecule and an aromatic ring moiety in each molecule which does not bear any alkyl substituent having

- more than 4 atoms; and
- c) about 10 to about 20 weight percent water-soluble alkanolamine.
38. (New) The composition of claim 37 wherein water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and water-soluble alkanolamine are present in said composition at a ratio by weight of from about 2:1 to about 30:1.
39. (New) A composition useful for removing paint from a non-water-soluble surface comprising:
- a) water;
- b) a water-soluble alkoxylated benzyl alcohol containing at least two oxyalkylene moieties per molecule and an aromatic ring moiety in each molecule which does not bear any alkyl substituent having more than 4 atoms; and
- c) a water-soluble base comprised of an alkanolamine in an amount sufficient to provide a pH of 8-14
40. (New) The composition of claim 39 wherein water-soluble ethoxylated aromatic alcohol and water-soluble alkanolamine are present in said composition at a ratio by weight of from about 2:1 to about 30:1.